

# IN THE BEGINNING



Published Quarterly By  
Woodson County Historical Society  
Yates Center, Kansas  
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## IN THE BEGINNING

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July, 1987

Lester A. Harding, Editor

### Editor's Notes —

Perhaps this will be as good a time as any to tell our readers that the next issue of IN THE BEGINNING, October, 1987, No. 80 will be the last issue as far as this editor is concerned.

We have spent many hours, days, weeks and 20 years getting out this little historical quarterly. We have also received help from many people, did much researching, and met and corresponded with many people we never heard of before. It has brought many people to our door.

But the years are taking their toll. We get out around 450 issues to mail or to give out. We mail around 250, making a thousand to mail a year, besides several hundred issues of back numbers a year.

We have often been asked what year we graduated from high school, or what college we attended. My answer had to be that we never went a day to high school or college. During these years, we have accumulated around a thousand books. These books have been not only a great source of enjoyment, but also quite a source of education.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our cover picture this issue is some of the Benj. Moody family told about in this issue. We have no names, but the dresses and hair-do is quite a different style from any that we have ever seen, and we thought them quite interesting.

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Woodson County Historical Society

Yates Center, Kansas.

\$4.00 per year

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## WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Organized March, 1965

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The Woodson County Historical Society held their regular bi-monthly meeting with a 6:30 dinner meeting at the 107 Inn, Tuesday evening, March 24, 1987.

Two boys of the Yates Center High School graduating class of 1987, gave the evening program, telling of a trip given them by the Methodist Church, to Washington D.C. and New York City. The boys were Mike Kubler and Mike McCullough.

There were 63 members and guests present, for the meal and program.

\* \* \* \* \*

The May meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society, was held at the 107 Inn, Tuesday evening, with a 6:30 dinner meeting. There were 47 present. Mike Meyers, principal of the Fredonia schools presented an interesting program with his collection of Toy John Deere tractors and other toy farm implements.

\* \* \* \* \*

### IN MEMORIAN

Chester Stevens 68 March 4, 1987

Rev. Stevens was a retired missionary. He was born and grew up in Yates Center, but had lived in Wichita for several years.

\* \* \* \* \*

Worline Tipton 97 May 8, 1987

Mr. Tipton was born in Woodson County and lived his entire life in the Batesville vicinity. He was a member of the Woodson County Historical Society from its beginning until his health failed him.

\* \* \* \* \*

John C. (Jack) Robson 94 May 28, 1987

Mr. Robson was a native of Woodson County. He was a 1914 graduate of the Yates Center High School. "Jack" followed the Y.C. High School football and basketball teams, in most of their games.

\* \* \* \* \*

### JOIN AND SUPPORT THE WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Yates Center, Kansas

Life Membership \$25.00 Regular Membership \$2.00 yearly

## ODDS AND ENDS

George Washington Weston, son of George Weston was born March 4, 1861, at Warsaw, Ind. He came to Kansas in 1881 with his father, sister and brother, and settled in Woodson County. He was united in marriage to Miss Mina Peden in 1885. They were the parents of seven children, five sons George H., Muril, Forest; daughter Mrs. Ada Murphey. Two sons and one daughter evidently dying in infancy.

About 4:30 p.m., August 6, 1910, Earl Sanford, son of Mrs. Caps of Yates Center, was instantly killed in the Woodson County courtyard. The commissioners had recently built an enclosure for the door leading to the ladies restroom. This was built out of brick, and the walls were about seven foot high, and were capped by Carthage lime stone rock about six inches wide and five inches thick. These cap rocks were simply laid on top of the walls and were not anchored or "tied." Earl was swinging on the rock over the entrance, when it broke with the weight falling on him and breaking his neck. He never moved after striking the ground. George Sisson Jr., was with him and saw the accident. Earl was about sixteen years old.

S. Grant Keck was born at Burnett, Indiana, May 30, 1869. He came to Woodson County and what was the Keck community when he was 14 years old. His father was A. Keck. On October 22, 1891, he was married to Miss Mary Baker, daughter of Baxter Baker. They had three children Cecil, born October 23, 1893; Charley, born August 2, 1899; and Doris, born on October 2, 1901. He was a leading hay dealer in Woodson County. He was killed in moving some bales of hay in his barn at Batesville. Three bales of hay fell on him, breaking his neck

Protus Blume, born May 6, 1832, near Strausburg, Germany, died in Yates Center on August 2, 1905. On January 19, 1858, he was married to Christiana McKenzie. On October 19, 1868 he came to Kansas and settled on a farm north-east of Buffalo in Woodson County School District 29 named for him. He had four boys and one girl. He moved into Yates Center in 1897.

Elma Alice Butler died March 9, 1909. She was 2 years and 5 months old. She died of whooping cough. She was the daughter of Albert E. and Hattie Butler.

Charlotte Elgiva Askren was born March 1, 1868 in the old Askren log cabin, daughter of David and Charlotte Askren. She was an early day school teacher in the rural schools of Woodson County. She was married to John C. Klingenburg on January 4, 1890. They were the parents of ten children: David R., Wilber, Fred D., Audrey E., and Ruth C. Five children died as infants.

## ODDS AND ENDS

Nancy E. Mills, was born February 15, 1847, in Missouri. She married J.O. Harris on December 22, 1864 in Missouri. They were the parents of two daughters; Laura B. who married James Surber, she died in 1886, and Minnie, who married Charles Smith. Nancy had two brothers, Alfred and C.C. Mills.

She came here first in 1865, returned to Missouri and back to the Finney community, where they homesteaded. J.O. Harris had belonged to the Missouri Militia during the Civil War.

L.L. Lovett died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Laura M. Giese, at the age of 78 years, two months. He also had a son, Hiram Lovett. He first married Louisa Harrison and had son James. L.L. married Hannah Woods and had six children, Hiram, H.A., C.H., Holmes, Mrs. Giese, and A.J. Hancock. Leonard L. was born near Wooster, Ohio, coming to Woodson County, Kansas in the fall of 1870. He homesteaded north-east of Toronto, Lovett school District #66 was named for him.

Alfred E. Tebben was born at Dorman, Hanover, Germany, March 5, 1846. He came to America seven years later, coming to Rock Island County, Illinois, and on to Woodson County in 1869. Here he married Miss Sarah Naylor on February 8, 1871. She was the daughter of George Naylor. They had the following children: Emma; George H.; Alfred H.; John W.; and Frankie. Alfred and Sarah and some children are buried in Askren Cemetery.

Mrs. Hattie Butler, wife of Albert E. Butler died at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Weide Sr., April 6, 1909 of whooping cough that developed into typhoid fever.

**Siria Cemetery**— Washington and wife Nancy Siria gave deed to one acre of ground for a cemetery March 1, 1876. Samuel Naylor, Justice of Peace, Liberty township.

May 18, 1899— Large fire at Neosho Falls, Neosho Falls Post presses and type all total loss. Neosho Falls Bank saved.

## THE NELSON PETERSON FAMILY—

In 1908, Nelson Peterson was married to Mary Etta Harkness. She was born June 5, 1879, in Hardin County, Kentucky. Her parents were J.W. and Cynthia Ann "Gibson" Harkness. In 1882, her parents moved to Wilson County Kansas. In the summer of 1886, J.W. Harkness took up a homestead claim in Scott County where they lived in a dugout the first winter. They built a sod house in 1887. Mary had finished her schooling in Scott County, and taught school in Scott and Lane counties from 1904 through 1907. During this time she proved up on a homestead in Scott County.

On December 23, 1908, she was married to Nelson Peterson. In 1917, they moved to Mountain Grove, Missouri. Later they moved to Neosho Falls, Kansas, in 1919, and then on to Vernon in 1930. They were farmers, and Nelson drove a cattle truck between Yates Center and Kansas City for several years. Nelson and Mary Peterson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 23, 1958. Mary died April 14, 1959, and Nelson died the following year on May 19, 1960.

Nelson and Mary Etta Peterson were the parents of six children: Thelma Sofia, Soren Nelson, John Kenneth, Homer Edwin, Edna Marie, and Angie, who died at birth.

(1) Thelma married John V. Davidson, June 20, 1934. Their children were Mamie and Lois.

(2) Soren Nelson married Mary Catherine Bray. They had no children.

(3) John Kenneth married Anna Pokna, August 26, 1945. They have one son, James Chas., and two adopted sons, John Brian and Fred Francis Kenneth. John spent four years in the U.S. Navy during W.W. II.

(4) Homer Edwin married Ethel L. Starkebaum, on November 20, 1945. They have four children; Donald Edwin died in infancy, Lyle Duane, Carol Lynn, and Janice Diane. Homer spent two years in the U.S. Navy during W.W. II. After his discharge from the Navy, they purchased a farm in 1947 about 1½ miles east of Vernon. Here they operated a dairy for 32½ years, selling the dairy in 1979, but they are still living on the farm and farming.

(5) Edna Marie never married. She retired from waitress work November, 1985, and makes her home in Iola.



## THE NELSON PETERSON FAMILY---

Nelson Peterson was born December 23, 1873 in Ordrup, Denmark, the son of Soren and Cora Sofia Peterson. In 1890, at the age of 16 years, Nelson came to the United States with his mother Cora, and sister Christena. They arrived in New York City on the vessel Polaria, July 15, 1890. An older brother and sister remained in Denmark. Nelson's father died when he was 12 years old.

Nelson with his mother, sister, and brother joined an older brother, John, and family in Chester, Nebraska. Nelson worked for several years for his brother to repay for their trip to the United States. In 1896, Nelson became a naturalized citizen. In 1904 Nelson laid claim to a government homestead in north-west Scott County, Kansas where he lived until 1917.



**Picture of Nelson and Mary Etta Peterson taken on their wedding day, December 23, 1908.**

**ARE AFTER RICKER \* SIX INDICTMENTS AND 29 COUNTS AGAINST HIM.** Yates Center Banker has fled the U.S. (This is headlines in the Topeka Daily Capital)

The Yates Center Bank was Nationalized in 1902, with the following officers; President Levi Robbins, Vice Presidents were, L.M. Beck and C.G. Ricker. Cashier, J.W. Depew and W.W. (Wilbur) Naylor, assistant Cashier. By 1913, an ad in Yates Center News stated that C.G. Ricker was President and W.W. Naylor was the Vice President.

On November 28, 1913 an ad appeared in the News stating that the Yates Center National Bank had a Capital Surplus Profit and Stockholders liability to the amount of \$115,000. On December 13, just two weeks later, C.G. Ricker disappeared and was never heard from again.

On the night he disappeared, his car was abandoned on what was then known as the Miller Hill, a half mile south of what is now the Kenneth Stockebrand home.

The shortage and liabilities were around \$175,000. The Bank commissioners closed the bank December 2, 1913.

It was believed that his car failed on him, and someone else took him to Humboldt, and he took the train back to Durand. Where from there, no one knows where.

Yates Center - May, 1913 - United States Marshall J.R. Harrison, today made the arrest of T.C. Ryan of Wichita against whom an indictment was returned by the Grand Jury at Ft. Scott in the Yates Center National Bank case.

W.G. Toedman of Yates Center was arrested yesterday on a similiar charge. He and Ryan had been heavy borrowers of the bank. Toedman and Ryan had both been business speculators of the bank.

A note for \$3,850 and bearer of alleged signature of John Holmquest was held for weeks by Hanover National Bank of New York. Holmquest, listed as a wealthy man, repudiated the note. He was not even a customer of Ricker's bank.

In a later issue we will try and tell the story of this bank from the start to finish.

It was very hard for the people of Yates Center and surrounding territory to really believe what was going on at this bank. The Yates Center News did not carry much about it the first week as they did not believe what was being told. The second week, the News told the story, a part of which is copied here.





**C.G. Ricker, Yates Center Banker, who fled the country with six indictments against him. Ricker's notes bore such signatures as; C. Gordon Ricker, C. Gordon, Charles, C.G. Ricker, and Charles G. Ricker - each name supposedly to be the signature of a different person.**

**\$200 REWARD!**

For Information Leading to the Arrest of

**CHAS. GORDON RICKER alias CHARLES RANDOLPH**

**Description**

Age, 55 years; height, 5 feet 11 inches; 6 feet; weight 160 or 165 pounds; slim built, walks erect; slightly round shoulders; dark hair tinged with gray, slightly curly; gray mustache, cropped short; hands slightly down; small hairy growth or birthmark inside left wrist.

Wire communications, charges collect, Government rate, United States Marshal, Topeka, Kansas.

**O. T. WOOD, U. S. Marshal,**

District of Kansas

**A part of the original poster that was no doubt posted widely.**

## A PIONEER FAMILY GOES WEST: The William A Rogers Family—

It was along about the time of the Civil War that, a log sway-backed prairie schooner (Covered Wagon) drawn by two blue-black oxen ambled up the ridge-crest overlooking the Neosho River in Kansas. The driver, a husky red-bearded young man in his early 30's, walked beside his blue oxen, talking to them, urging them on with increasing eagerness toward the destination for which he had planned for years.

For 59 days they had been following the tortuous winding trail from Decatur, Illinois, fording many streams, besides ferrying the big Mississippi River. It was a dry season and the wooden rims of the heavy wheels shrunk so badly it was necessary to remove and soak them at night in streams along the way.

Riding in the ambling, groaning wagon, humping up-and-down-and sideways as the heavy iron rims struck limestone rocks in the deep ruts, was a beautiful blonde woman.

The red-bearded man driving the oxen was William A. Rogers, and the young lady was his wife, but not his first. They had two daughters, Ellen and Lena Rogers. His second bride, the one in the wagon, was a sister of the Mrs. Rogers, whose name was Martha. To William and Martha were born two daughters, Anna and Effie, both very small.

Reaching the crest of a hill, the man said "whoa" to his oxen, Old Blue and Old Star, and the bride of three years eagerly joined her husband as they clambered up on a higher elevation to gaze as far as eyes could see over an undulating prairie. "Martha," he said, "this is the place." "Yes, Will, it is what we have been planning for all these years."



The picture at left is William Rogers, the red-bearded man with the oxen. Below is sketch of his ox-team and wagon as drawn by his grandson Clarence Rogers the writer of most of this article.



As William and Martha stopped the yoke of oxen and wagon the sight before them was the Neosho River meandering off to the North-west. Old Blue and Star had dropped in their tracks, worn out by the long trek, but now with resurging eagerness the man urged them forward. The covered-wagon started creaking and groaning again as it ambled like an old woman down the hill. Approaching the little village of a small assortment of houses, they observed the first store with a sign extending out toward the road. It read "Curdy's General Merchandise, Humboldt, Kansas."

There was no sidewalk, not even a porch in front of the store, just a half dozen old bare hitching posts. Several bewhiskered men were sitting on a wooden bench and an occasional spray of tobacco juice would arch out into the road. Inside, the man re-stocked his supply of necessary food items, a long slab of fat salt pork, flour from a barrel, sugar from another barrel, sorgum from a spigot. Since there were no railroads at that time all store supplies had to be freighted from Ottawa, Kansas or Independence, Missouri.

Over in the recorder's office there were homesteads (160 acres available out on the prairie) but the "Land of Opportunity" was in the river and creek bottoms. William decided on the Owl Creek area, near his cousin Frank Hayes. Here he obtained 40 acres of bottom land. The prairie upland was wide open range land and unfenced.

A frame house was built with two rooms upstairs and rooms downstairs.

\* \* \* \* \*

We will go now to Richard (Dick) Rogers and family. Richard and his wife Della purchased and moved onto a farm 8 miles due west of Yates Center. The north 40 acres of the N.W. quarter of Sec. 16 two miles north of the Cedarvale School house, 8 miles due west of Yates Center.

This was about 1903. Just two years later, the mother, Della died at the age of 39, run down and overworked, leaving her husband Richard, children, Clarence, and four younger sisters, Minnie, Blanche, Luetta and Maude. These girls all attended the Cedarvale school, walking the distance of 2¼ miles each way. One of their teachers was Minnie E. Harris, who later became their sister-in-law, by marrying their brother Clarence.

At least one of these girls, Blanche, became a rural school teacher of Woodson County. She married Lester Rohr of LeRoy. Minnie Rogers married Albert Ogilvia. Maude married Lewis Morrow from near Burlington, and Luetta Rogers married ..... Scott.



**Richard A. (Dick) Rogers**



**Clarence Wm. Rogers**

Richard Rogers was born October 19, 1868 near Decatur, Illinois. However, when Dick was two years old, the family again came to near Humboldt, Kansas. He was married to Della Robertson. The five children were born here.

\* \* \* \* \*

Clarence Wm. Rogers was born 1891, near Humboldt. He attended the Cedarvale school Dist. #69. In 1909 Clarence was married to Miss Minnie Harris, who had taught the Cedarvale school.

Clarence drew a sketch of the Cedarvale school as he remembered it in later years and then tells some about it.



The small country school house with the two small buildings; one marked Girls and the other marked Boys.

Eighth grade Graduation was quite an Event.

You took your Exams, in town, a whole Saturday of it: I passed. To most folks you were a finished product. However, some did go on to high school -- a more or less expenditure of money, to most people. Dad never said yes or no. I had no money to pay the \$2 out of town fee or to pay room and board. I learned that a boy had tried high school a year and had gotten a job in Yates Center. To earn my board, room and tuition at Mr. Will O'Donnell's this job would be available. Mr O'Donnell was an R.F.D. carrier who kept a dozen horses, 20 hogs, and 16 cattle at his place in town. They all had to be fed and watered twice a day. I found that I just couldn't keep my Latin, Algebra, English, and Ancient History, so I decided to throw in the towel and quit.

Mr. O'Donnell carried mail in a cart, 26 milestrip, back at noon, and worked in a bank 1 to 5 in afternoons. When I decided to quit, he and Mr. Fred Stephenson, president of the bank, prevailed upon me to stay and review the city 8th grade, and then try for a teachers certificate. They had both been teachers this way they said, so sold me on the idea.



*The R.A. Rogers Family (1895)  
Dick-Della-Minnie & Clarence  
Humboldt, Kansas*



*The C.W. Rogers Family (1922)  
Allan-Dad-Mother & Bruce  
Hays, Kansas*

*The Three Grand Dads*

*RND  
FAMILIES  
12/10/50*

## THE JOEL MOODY FAMILY—

In going through the records of Woodson County, we find that there were two men by the name of Joel Moody in Woodson County according to the 1860 Census of the county.

We have written the story of Joel Moody of Belmont who platted out the town site of Belmont. The other Joel Moody settled in the northeast part of the county, about four miles west and two and a half north from Neosho Falls. The Joel from Belmont was born in New Brunswick. The other one we will tell about here.

Joel Moody was born, January 29, 1799, in Chatham County, North Carolina. Joel was married to Gazella "Gilly" Moody. She was born February 16, 1797. They were married March 15, 1819, in Chatham County, North Carolina.

The Census records do not always agree with the Family Group. The 1860 Census was the first census taken for Woodson County gave this information.

Moody - Joel....69....Farmer	North Carolina
..... - Gilley A. 63..Housekeeper	North Carolina
..... - Martha....36..	North Carolina
..... - Andrew....40..Teacher	North Carolina
..... - Benjiman..25..Farmer	
..... - Mary M. ..23..	North Carolina

In the 1870 Census the dates vary some but some of the writing on the census sheets are not very clear nor accurate.

Moody -Joel.....72..Farmer..	Value of Real estate
	\$7,000. .Pers.\$700.
.....Gazelle....73.....	
.....Andrew.....50..Teacher	
Moody..Benj.R....33...Farmer..	Real estate value
	\$7,000..Pers. \$750.
.....Jenette...18...Housekeeper	

A James Moody, son of Arcadia Moody was born in Randolph County North Carolina in May 1823. and died in November 1914 in Colfax, Indiana. More about him on another page.



Benjiman Moody was married to Mary Augenette Williams. On different records her name was given as Mary A. and also as Jenette. They were married in Woodson County, Kansas on September 12, 1869. He was 33 and she was 19.

On April 10, 1865, Joel Moody received a patent (Deed) from the U.S. Government for the Northwest Quarter of Sec. 23, Twp., Range 16.

On May 21, 1863, Benjiman Moody received a Patent from the U.S. Government for the southwest quarter of the same section, joining on the south of the Joel Moody quarter section.

The Woodson-Coffey county line was the north side of the Joel Moody homestead. This was flat bottom land, Rich soil but it caught water from a small creek upstream and some swampy. We have never found just where the Joel Moody house or cabin was located.

The farmstead on the Benj. Moody homestead was on the east side. This quarter section was about half way up a steep bluff that was covered with trees and brush. The house was about half way up the steep hill where one could overlook a lot of the Neosho River Valley.

Sometime in the early 1870's the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad purchased the right-of-way through this section, diagonally from the southeast corner. This line went over the very center of the section, cutting the Joel Moody quarter section from the S.E. corner to the N.W. corner. The railroad came around the southeast edge of Neosho Falls and went to the west of LeRoy.

Somewhere around ten years later a railroad that later became a branch of the Missouri Pacific, came through LeRoy and headed for Yates Center. These two railroads crossed about a half mile to the north west corner of the Joel Moody farm. Here a small station was built for shipping and an agent was stationed there. We supposed that the railroad officials were the ones who gave it the name of Moody for the Moody family who lived nearby. The Moody Station had the appearance of being built on stilts, as the dispatchers room was where he had the levers to open and close the tracks. The KATY railroad disbanded in the 1950's leaving just one set of tracks, making it possible to disband the Moody Station.

The last time we saw the Moody Station was during the 1952 flood when the Neosho River was about five miles wide in many places. It was the second day of the flood when a group gathered at a road west of the station. It was thought the operator was still in the station. Two local men in a small motor boat went almost a quarter mile in a strong current, only to find the operator had gotten out.

The Moody families at time of the 1880 census.

MOODY, Joel.....81.....

....., Andrew,...55.....

....., Gilly..... 3.....

Moody, Benjiman...49.....

....., Mary A.....38.....

....., Riley Omer. 6.....

....., Martha B... 7.....

....., Anna M..... 5.....

....., Mary E..... 3.....

....., John.....6/12....

Joel and Gazella had four known children, Andrew, Martha, Benjiman and Permilia. All four of these children were born in Chatham County, North Carolina. It would be interesting to know just how or when this family came to the Kansas Territory, but evidently by covered wagon, with horses and oxen.

(1)Andrew was married but divorced. With his 3 year old daughter, he moved to Oregon in 1885. He was born in 1820 and was a school teacher while living in Kansas.

(2)Martha Ann Moody and Robert C. Beathe, were married in Woodson County, Kansas, March 14, 1861. She was 35 and he was 33.

(3)Benjiman and Augenette had built a crude cabin on the side of the large bluff that makes up the south west corner of their homestead. Here they raised their family. Benjiman was listed as a farmer and Mary A. as a carpet weaver. They were the parents of five children.

(4)Permilia Moody was born in North Carolina July 24, 1822. She was married to James Moody on January 8, 1846. They were parents of seven children, Roxina, Louraia, Cyrus, Ann, Martha, Mollie, William, and an adopted daughter Flora Fisher.



**Permelia A. Moody and daughter Mollie Moody.**



**Seated is Mary A. Moody with daughter Martha and son John Moody.**



During the 1952 flood along the Neosho River the water was about four miles wide where the Moody Tower was about half mile from the nearest dry ground. We took this picture of the small motor boat with John Glades and Wayne Jaynes in it. In the picture, the small boat can be seen partway between the men standing at the edge of the water and the Moody Tower showing up out of the water.



Unknown Moody

## CHARLES EZRA FLORENCE—

A man seldom mentioned any more or perhaps he is one of the forgotten men who helped the Public Square particularly the south-east corner. He also built several houses around the town.

Charles E. Florence was born in Clifton, Green County, Ohio, September 23, 1849. His parents were John Florence, born in Indiana, and Elizebeth Funston, born on the Funston homestead, eight miles south of Springfield, Ohio.

As a boy and young man, Charles moved with his parents to several different places in Indiana and then into Missouri, where they farmed and tried the merchantile business. Charles E., tried several different jobs, one of these was teaching school. This was in Indiana. He got a salary of \$40 a month for five months and payed \$1.50 a week for his board, and went back to the farm.

In his autobiography, Charles Florence recalls this; "The winter of 1875, Uncle John Funston's family arrived in the dead of winter from Ohio, in a bobsled from the train they came on. In helping them out of the sled I got hold of the oldest girl Anna and helped her out and I have been helping her out ever since. You might call it love at first sight because I thought she was a very sweet girl."

Charles Florence and Anna Funston were married on November 20, 1877.

In the fall of 1883, Charles E., his Uncle Frank and a Mr. T.B. Nolan, made a trip into Kansas, and west into Greenwood County, Butler, and Woodson Counties.

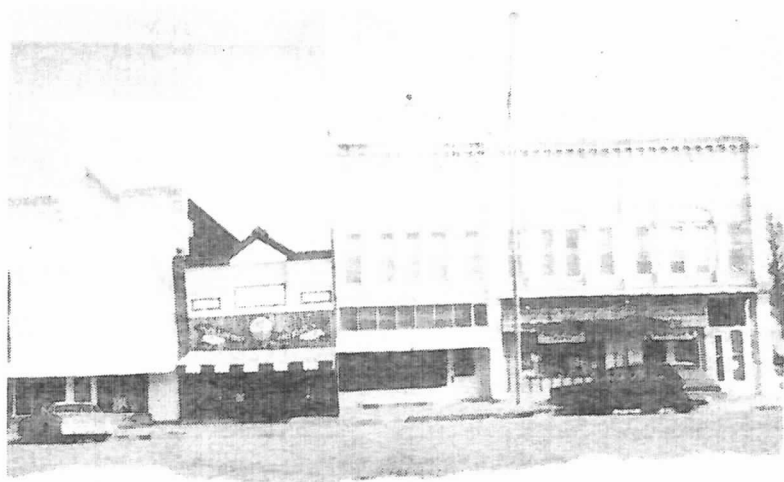
Frank bought an 800 acre farm in Greenwood County. Charles and Mr. Nolan bargained for some vacant lots in Yates Center, quite a thriving little city of 600 population. From Mr. Florence's autobiography, "I came home and sold my farm for \$2,700, and all of my crop and stock. The last of November, we migrated to Woodson County and arrived in Yates Center the next day after Thanksgiving. Mr. Funston, my wife's father and family arrived a few days before from Indiana. We sent the family through by train and we drove a team and wagon. When we got within ten miles of Yates Center we could see the top of the new school building, which was located on the highest point of the city."

At that time, Yates Center had a population of a little over six hundred, and had two railroads and four churches, and

most everyone went to church or Sunday School. The town had no saloons or gambling dens and never had a colored population. Mr. Florence recalled that in later years a colored barber came to town, and went to work in Parks Barber Shop. Shortly after, he got a letter one morning with a picture of a crude coffin on it and advised him what to do. He showed it to me and said they couldn't scare him out, but the next morning he had disappeared.

That spring, (1884) Mr. Florence built a nice six-room house on his block, then he started a building 42' by 70'. Two stories completed the two store rooms on the first floor and made office rooms on the second floor. This was the first building in Yates Center that had a plate-glass front.

"In the fall of 1884 I commenced the erection of the bank building on the corner south of the two buildings I had erected in the spring and summer. This building I finished in two rooms on the first floor, one large room and two office rooms on the second floor. The larger room I rented to Dr. Wharton for a Democrat Printing office, and occupied one of the others for an office for myself."



**The three buildings put up by C. Florence on the south east corner of the Y.C. Square that Mr. Florence built and writes about.**



During the spring of 1885, I rented the corner room to some parties from Iowa for a bank. I built a vault and fixed it up for a bank, which they opened up in the spring. This was known as the Dickerson and Updike State Bank. I rented one of the first rooms to a Mr. Culbertson for a restaurant. That year my brother William I., came out from Indiana and he and C.V. Ogalvie from Ohio started a music store in the building just to the north of the bank. I had a bank, and three stores and a printing office in what some merchants thought was a dead corner. After Cleveland was elected as President, Dr. Wharton got the appointment of Postmaster.



**Picture of Charles E. Florence, on his 91st birthday, March 15, 1941 in Wichita, Kansas.**

To tell about all of the business and residents that were built in Yates Center by Charles Florence during the few years he lived here would fill a good-sized book.

## **WILLIAM CLINTON SMITH—**

Wm. C. Smith was born in June, 1851 in Tipton County, Indiana. He was the son of William F. and Loutisha (Jiles) Smith, natives of Baltimore County, Maryland. When Clinton was about four years old, the family moved to Harrison County Missouri, where they remained until about 1869, when they moved to Doniphan County Kansas.

On August 27, 1876, Wm. Clinton married Leona Duark Thompson, in Holt County, Missouri. She was a daughter of Joshua W. and Catherine (Milbourne) Thompson. Leona was born July 25, 1857 in Andrews County, Missouri.

Clinton and Leona lived in Holt County until about 1878, when with one child, they moved to Doniphan County, Kansas. The Smith family moved to Woodson County, Kansas in about 1896.

Clinton and Leona Smith were the parents of 13 children, ten of which were born in Doniphan County, moving to the Rose community in Woodson County. They bought the farm where the house was known as the "12 Mile House." It was located on the Fifth Parallel west, 12 miles from Humboldt.

The younger Smith children attended the Harmony School, Dist.

Clinton passed away February 9, 1921, at the age of 70. Leona lived on the farm until her death, April 15, 1950. Both are laid at rest in the Graceland Cemetary, in Yates Center.



**Wm. Clinton Smith and wife Leona at the time of their wedding, August 27, 1876.**

The children of Clinton and Leona lived most of their years in the Rose and Yates Center area. The children were:

(1) Ora Bell, b. 3 January, 1879; d. 22 April, 1969. Married Neil Porter.

(2) Fanny Ethel, b-25 November; d-9 April, 1970. Married Rudolph Weide.

(3) Myrtle Mae, b-27 December, 1882; d-6 January, 1980. Married Alexander Rodgers.

(4) Pearl Adelma, b-29 January; d-December 18 5. Married Alexander Alderson.

(5) Willson Boyd, b-25 December, 1887; d-7 April, 1979. Married Grace Taylor.

(6) William Lloyd, b-25 December, 1887. (Twin of Willson Boyd) Died about 1895, at the age of 8.

(7) Loutisha Louise, b-24 February, 1890; d-July, 1970. Married James J. Irwin.

(8) George Floyd, b-7 November; d-22 July, 1961. Married Clara Beckett.

(9) Daisy Frankie, b-16 March, 1894; d-24 April, 1987. She was married to Oscar Dutro.

(10) Harry Lee, b-22 April, 1894; d-8 May, 1973. Married Lena Shultz.

(11) Leo Edwin, b-26 September, 1899; d-26 September, 1978. Married to Olive F. Reader.

Two children not listed died in infancy.

\* \* \* \* \*

Daisy F. was the last of this large family. She died April 24, 1987 at her home in Topeka. She had married Oscar Dutro. They were parents of six children: Vivian, Irene, and Wanda; Earl, Theodore, and Mark.

Theodore, or "Ted," married Lorraine Harding. They live at Why, Arizona.

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## YATES CENTER HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES—

In the April 1987 issue of *IN THE BEGINNING*, we listed 10 graduates for the class of 1914; we found that we just listed half of them. Those omitted were: Blanche Gregory-Martin, Ethel Gunnels, Mary Gunnels, Neva Hefflefinger, Maynie Irvine-Beibe, Hester Lam-Reed, Ruby Phelps-Guy, Wesley Pike, John (Jack) Robson, and Burtha Shepard-Turner.

We had left off with the class of 1919, so we will continue with the class of 1920 and 1921.

### 1920

Mildred Irene Adamson  
Jesse E. Aranhalt  
Esther Mae Dumond-Knotts  
Charles Almon Bowen  
Mona Estella Easum-Bedford  
Vesta Hefner-Varnum  
Oril Eldon Gillespie  
Ernest Haines Elliot  
Alfred Gene Gordon  
Margaret Jagger  
Jesse Milton Harris  
Letha Pauline Manifold  
Carl Frank Harder  
Pearl Lelia Mentzer  
Catherine Gladys Moore Norton  
Ralph McCormick  
Ernest Ora Linder  
Alexander Mulveyon Pearson  
Clara Belle McDaniel  
George Edward Phillips  
Deane Randall, Honorary Grad.  
Marjorie Reed-Toedman  
Thomas John Richard  
Neil Louis Toedman  
Lois Violet Sanders  
Neva Elnora Sager  
Gladys Henrietta Swart  
Flossie Opal Van Vakenberg  
Margaret Dema White  
Edmund Carl Weide  
Flossie Mary Violet Willis

### 1921

Catherine Agnew  
Lucille Maud Adams  
Mary Bethene Agnew

### 1921

Estella Evelyn Brownrigg  
Theodore Edward Brodman  
Andrew McRoberts Child  
Ivan Clark Child  
Donald Clark Culver  
Austin Lynn Dumond  
Clarke Gregg Dumond  
Vera Ailene Darland  
Irma Rosetta Fuhage  
Alice Gordon Stockebrand  
Clara Margaret Geith  
Agnes Erdwine Goedecke  
Sue Frandes Harvey  
Glady Marie Desterson Krueker  
Greta Lillian Heistand  
Sybil Mary Kinyon  
Katherine Waker Lewis McLaughlin  
Ruth Jacqueline Lambert  
John Wesley Lewis  
Jennie Macoubrie  
Margaret Della McLaughlin  
Elizebeth Stells McLaughlin  
Marjorie Emma Mentzer  
Opal Loraine Moerer  
Oma Lucille Old  
Franci Katherine Patterson  
Wallace Robson  
Irma Schaeede  
Hilda Pearl Staten  
Geneva Pearl Swinney-Harrod  
Lenore Vivian Stitcher-Stockebrand  
Gladys Mabel Trueblood Varenhorst  
Nelson Theodore Toedman  
Wm. Leslie Varnum  
Erma Theo Willis-Harder

## **PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY**

Milton & Virginia Schornick  
Kenneth & Barbara Stockebrand  
John V. Glades Agency  
Street Abstract Co., Inc.  
Self Service Grocery  
Steiner's Sundries  
Piqua Farmer's Co-op  
Morton Equipment Co.  
Swope & Son Implement Co.  
Superior Bldg. & Supply, Inc.  
The Herring Families  
Cantrell Hay Co.,  
    Craig Cantrell  
Helene Schnell  
Wilma Mark  
Yates Center News  
Pringle Ranch -  
    J. Richard Pringle  
Atkin Rexall Pharmacy  
Campbell Funeral Home  
Glen & Zola Baker  
Piqua State Bank

Lynn and Gail Cantrell  
Gaulding Oil Co.  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ward  
Clyde Hill  
Kimbell Ranch-Ed. Kimbell  
Hi-Way Food Basket  
Atkin Clinic  
Ken Kimbell  
Jaspers Shopping Spot  
Daly Western Supply  
Linde Barber Shop  
Campbell Plmg. & Electric  
Ted Spencer-Gen. Agent  
    Woodson Co. Farm Bureau  
Jaynes Insurance Agency  
Glenn Shaw  
C.L. "Matty" & Luriel Mathews  
Milton & Marcella Wrampe  
Loren & Rita Cantrell  
Al's Jewelry  
Thomas Wilson  
Bill Herman  
Abbott & Ethel Crandall  
Laurence M. & Alice  
Catherin Smith

